

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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DEFENSE SPENDING BILL CONTAINS \$234 MILLION FOR SOUTHERN TIER CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING \$21 MILLION ADDED BY HINCHEY

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the Defense Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2003, which was passed by the House Appropriations Committee this week, includes \$233,750,000 for contractors in Owego, Binghamton and Johnson City. This total includes \$20.9 million Hinchey requested in excess of the Bush Administration's request.

"These contracts are great news for the economy of the Southern Tier," said Hinchey. "I'm glad I was able to increase the amount of money coming to the region. This is a win-win situation as far as I'm concerned. Our region gets a nice boost and the U.S. military continues to be served by excellent companies."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey supported President Bush's budget request for contracts in the Southern Tier, but he successfully fought to provide the additional funds. Hinchey also succeeded in inserting into the bill language that directs the U.S. Navy to explore the possibility of a multi-year procurement of the MH-60S helicopter cockpit, which is supplied by Lockheed Martin Systems Integration - Owego. This clause will make it easier for Lockheed Martin to continue this arrangement with the Navy by removing the need for annual contract renewals.

Details of the Southern Tier contracts included in the FY '03 Defense Appropriations bill as passed by the House Appropriations Committee follow. The full House is expected to vote on the package later this week.

Lockheed Martin Systems Integration - Owego

Multi-Mission Helicopter (MH-60R) Programs -

- \$116.2 million for procurement of MH-60R helicopters; and
- \$89 million for research and development for the multi-mission helicopter upgrade development program.

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Lockheed Martin Systems Integration - Owego (continued)

A-10 Squadrons -

- \$7.65 million for research and development on the A-10 precision engagement program.

L-3/Link, Binghamton

- \$15 million for an additional UH-60L Blackhawk Simulator for the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Drum, NY. The additional flight simulator was not requested in the President's budget.

Eureka Tents, Binghamton

- \$2 million for the acquisition of Modular General Purpose Tent Systems (MGPTS) by the U.S. Army; and
- \$2 million for the acquisition of MGPTS by the U.S. Marine Corps.
- Neither award was requested in the President's budget.

BAE Control Systems, Johnson City

- \$1.9 million for the P-3 Digital Autopilot Upgrade, a component of a \$40 million package for P-3 modernization. This award was not requested in the President's budget.